

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claims 3-12 (original)

13 (currently amended): A ballistic armor, comprising a generally plate-shaped body, the body comprising:

a composite material comprising

(a) a reinforcement phase comprising boron carbide;

(b) a matrix comprising silicon carbide; and

(c) no more than about 30 percent by volume of an infiltrant phase comprising silicon dispersed throughout said matrix phase,

the body furthermore having a mass efficiency of at least about 4.1 when tested under the following conditions:

- 7.62 mm projectile
- unit layers of [[SpectraShield®]] polymer composite backing material, each of said unit layers consisting of two tapes of unidirectional extended-chain polyethylene fibers in a thermoplastic resin matrix, cross-plyed at right angles to one another
- total armor system areal density of about 29 kg/m²
- outer tactical vest simulant comprising 28 plies of 600 denier KM2 [[(600 denier)]] blanket comprising rip-stop nylon.

Claims 21-24 (canceled)

25 (original)

26 (currently amended): The ballistic armor of claim 13, further comprising a ballistic stopping power of at least 90 % that of armor grade boron carbide when tested under the following conditions:

- 7.62 mm projectile
- unit layers of [[SpectraShield®]] polymer composite backing material, each of said unit layers consisting of two tapes of unidirectional extended-chain polyethylene fibers in a thermoplastic resin matrix, cross-plyed at right angles to one another
- total armor system areal density of about 30 kg/m²
- an outer tactical vest simulant comprising 28 plies of 600 denier KM2 [[600 denier]] blanket having rip-stop nylon
- armor grade boron carbide plate thickness of about 0.69 cm.

Claims 27-31 (original)

Claims 32-38 (canceled)